

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 25,
1974:

QUOTE: MR. HARE: I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE
EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN TUNIS IN THE LAST DAYS:

WE DEPLORE THE DEATH OF A GERMAN CITIZEN AT THE HANDS OF THE
BAND OF TERRORISTS BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES THEY
HELD AT TUNIS AIRPORT. WE WELCOME THE RELEASE OF THE
REMAINING HOSTAGES.

WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE AGONIZING DECISIONS WHICH HAD TO BE
MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR
THAT THE MURDERERS OF OUR DIPLOMATS IN KHARTOUM WERE NOT
RELEASED; AND WE REGRET THAT THE FINAL FORMULA INCLUDED THE
RELEASE OF OTHER CRIMINALS WHO HAVE KILLED AMERICANS AND
OTHERS, AND WHO HAVE TERRORIZED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS AT DUBAI AND TUNIS AIRPORTS ARE A
GRAVE REMINDER TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES THAT INNOCENT

PERSONS ANYWHERE CAN BE VICTIMIZED BY TERRORISTS.

IT REMAINS IMPERATIVE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO STAND TOGETHER TO
PUT AN END TO SUCH BARBARIC BEHAVIOR. WE BELIEVE THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT NO GOVERNMENT
SHOULD ALLOW THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS LATEST ATROCITY, AS
WELL AS THOSE CRIMINALS RELEASED TO THEM TO ESCAPE THE
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CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

Q. ARE YOU SURE THAT THEY ARE FREE? THERE WERE SOME
REPORTS THAT THEY WERE ARRESTED BY THE TUNISIANS.

A. WELL AT THIS POINT I BELIEVE THEY ARE IN TUNISIAN
CUSTODY, BUT THAT IS THE EXTENT OF MY INFORMATION AT THIS
TIME.

Q. WELL AREN'T THEY IN TUNISIAN CUSTODY, PENDING ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR SOME HAVEN FOR THEM IN SOME OTHER SYMPATHETIC
STATE. DO YOU KNOW?

A. I AM NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THAT RESPECT.

I WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE PAST IN SITUATIONS OF THIS KIND, WE HAVE ALWAYS URGED ALL COUNTRIES TO BRING THESE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE.

Q. HAS THIS MESSAGE BEEN GIVEN TO THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT? PARTICULARLY THE LAST PART OF IT -- THE FACT THAT YOU DEPLORE ANY ACTION ON THE PART OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ASYLUM TO THESE --

A. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF OUR POSITION.

Q. BEFORE THIS?

A. WELL, I AM JUST CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR POSITION. BUT I CAN'T SAY PRECISELY IF ANY MESSAGES, PER SE, HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED IN THIS REGARD.

Q. YOU CAN'T SAY BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW -- OR ARE YOU LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY?

A. WELL WE HAVE YOU KNOW, BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED, THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT. THAT'S WHY I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR POSITION.

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Q. DID THE UNITED STATES SPECIFICALLY ASK THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT NOT TO RELEASE THE KHARTOUM PEOPLE?

A. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON THE KHARTOUM EIGHT FOR A LONG TIME, AND WE HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY ASSURED THAT THOSE CRIMINALS REMAIN IN CUSTODY IN CAIRO.

Q. "AND WOULD REMAIN IN CUSTODY?"

A. THAT THEY REMAIN IN CUSTODY IN CAIRO.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS LATEST LEBANESE VERSION THAT A DIPLOMATIC TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT WAS REALLY A SEARCH FOR HASHISH -- IN, I DON'T KNOW FRANGIE'S POCKETS, OR LUGGAGE.

A. WELL, WE DID HAVE A PRELIMINARY REPORT THAT ONE OR MORE JUNIOR PERSONNEL TRAVELLING ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S PLANE, MIGHT BE PLANNING TO BRING HASHISH INTO THE COUNTRY.

WE COORDINATED WITH THE LEBANESE ON THIS MATTER AND MEASURES WERE TAKEN ON THEIR SIDE TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE TOOK SUCH ADVANTAGE OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S VISIT TO NEW

YORK.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ONE POINT CLEAR, AND THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE OF ANY ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE DRUGS INTO THE COUNTRY.

Q. WELL WHAT -- WAS THERE A SEARCH?

Q. INVOLVING DOGS.

A. WELL I AM NOT SURE PRECISELY ABOUT THAT LATTER QUESTION.

Q. WHICH? THE SEARCH, OR THE DOGS?

A. THE DOGS.

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Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SEARCH?

A. BUT WE DID TAKE SOME MEASURES, AND THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING ON THESE PROCEDURES IN NEW YORK.

WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR REGRET TO THE LEBANESE OVER THIS, AND HAVE ASSURED THEM THAT NO OFFENSE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S OR LEBANON'S DIGNITY, WAS INTENDED.

AND AT THIS POINT I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSCORE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO ITS TRADITIONALLY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES WITH LEBANON.

Q. WELL THEN WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK? CAN WE GET A LITTLE MORE PRECISE ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THE LAST VERSION AROUND, WAS THAT THEY WERE BEING MET SOLELY BY UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL OFFICERS, AND NOT BY NARCOTICS AGENTS.

A. WELL, WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

Q. MY QUESTION IS: EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK WITH THE NARCOTICS AGENTS. THE LAST TIME WE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT, YOU WERE ASKED WHETHER ANY U.S. REPRESENTATIVES VOLUNTARILY WERE ON HAND, IN ADDITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL OFFICERS -- AND YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T THINK SO, BUT YOU WOULD ENDEAVOR TO INQUIRE.

A. WELL NO, I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO U.S. REPRESENTATION, DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, IF YOU WISH, AT THE AIRPORT.

Q. AND NOW WE FIND THERE WERE.

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS CONCERNING THIS PARTICULAR MATTER.

Q. YOU SAID THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING ON PROCEDURES IN NEW YORK. WHAT PROCEDURES OCCURRED, OVER WHICH THERE WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING?

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A. WELL I WILL TRY AND FIND OUT MORE OF THE DETAILS ON PRECISELY WHAT OCCURRED.

Q. WELL, THE LEBANESE SAY THERE WAS A SEARCH AND THERE WERE DOGS. DO YOU DENY THAT?

A. NO, I AM NOT DENYING THAT. BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS.

Q. EXCUSE ME. IS THE REST OF THAT ACCOUNT ACCURATE? NAMELY, THAT THE REASON GIVEN ON THE LEBANESE SIDE AS TO WHY THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED A MEETING OF PRESIDENT FORD WITH THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT WAS TO TRY TO SMOOTH OVER THE IRRITATION? IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I DIDN'T SEE THAT, I DIDN'T SEE THAT PARTICULAR POINT. NO, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WAS THE CASE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US IF THIS IS THE REASON THAT AMBASSADOR GODLEY IS BEING RECALLED?

A. WELL I THINK THAT WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IS THAT THERE WERE PERHAPS SEVERAL FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE LEBANESE DISPLEASURE, AND I THINK I'LL JUST LEAVE IT THERE.

Q. ACCORDING TO THE STORY: GODLEY TOLD THE LEBANESE THAT THERE IS A SUSPICION.

AND THEN THE LEBANESE CARRIED OUT THEIR OWN SEARCH AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS NO SMUGGLING.

I TAKE IT THAT THEY SO INFORMED GODLEY, AND GODLEY SO INFORMED THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- SO WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE ANOTHER SEARCH BY U.S. NARCOTICS AGENTS IN NEW YORK?

A. WELL, I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANY FURTHER FOR YOU HERE.

Q. THAT'S A PITY, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THERE IS A VERSION COMING OUT FROM BEIRUT. AND THERE IS NO VERSION BUT A UNCLASSIFIED

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FEW PIOUS WORDS, COMING OUT FROM YOU. THAT APPEARS TO LET THE VERSION STAND.

A. WELL, I'M NOT SURE, EXACTLY, WHAT YOUR POINT IS.

Q. WOULD YOU STAY WITH THE VERSION THAT THERE WAS A SEARCH AND THAT DOGS WERE INVOLVED?

A. LOOK, I'VE SEEN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WHICH REPORT OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE BEIRUT PRESS.

I AM NOT DENYING THAT SPECIFIC POINT, BUT I AM NOT PREPARED TO TAKE IT ANY FURTHER FOR YOU.

Q. WOULD YOU TAKE IT THAT FAR, THOUGH -- WAS THE FRANGIE PARTY SEARCHED? PERIOD. NOT TO GO BEYOND THAT POINT, BUT TO THAT POINT, AT LEAST?

A. ON BACKGROUND, YES, CERTAIN PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED IN NEW YORK.

Q. HAVE WE MADE THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN QUESTIONS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, A MEASURE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THESE MIDDLE EAST GOVERNMENTS, OR ALL OF THEM, WITH WHICH WE HAVE RELATIONS?

OR, TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY: ARE WE GETTING ANY DEGREE OF COOPERATION? YOU MENTIONED THAT THE KHARTOUM EIGHT ARE STILL IN THE CLINK IN CAIRO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

A. YES.

Q. BUT ARE WE GETTING OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION IN ANY DEGREE FROM THESE GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN UP RELATIONS, OR EXPANDED RELATIONS, IN THE MATTER OF --

A. COUNTERTERRORISM?

Q. YES. JUST, GENERALLY.

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A. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE I REALLY DON'T KNOW THE FACTS ABOVE AND - BEYOND THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT WHICH WE, OF COURSE, WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS THAT WERE CONCERNED -- ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT A DIRECT PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT TODAY ON THE VOTE THAT WAS TAKEN FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO -- RECOGNIZE THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE?

A. NO.

Q. COULD YOU INTERPRET FOR US THE MEANING OF THE COMMUNIQUE IN VLADIVOSTOK CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE? DOES THAT MEAN THAT A RENEWAL OF THE CONFERENCE IS IMMINENT WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY GREATER PRECISION TO THE COMMUNIQUE. IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO IT.

Q. IT DOESN'T REALLY SPEAK FOR ITSELF ON THAT SUBJECT.

A. WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY GREATER PRECISION TO ADD TO IT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE ASKING.

Q. IT'S REPORTED FROM THE SECRETARY'S PLANE, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOW SATISFIED THAT THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT, WILL BE EXTENDED. CAN YOU VERIFY THAT?

A. WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO ELABORATE ON THE REPORT THAT YOU MENTIONED.

WE, OF COURSE, HOPE THAT THE UNDOF WILL BE EXTENDED AND THAT PARTICULAR MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP AT THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THIS WEEK.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TIME OF THE REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S PLANE AND, SAY THREE DAYS BEFORE, THAT MADE HIM REAFFIRM HIS ASSESSMENT -- MADE U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS REAFFIRM HIS ASSESSMENT THAT UNDOF WOULD BE RENEWED?

A. NO.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY INDICATIONS AROUND THE WESTERN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, AS TO THE RECEPTION OF THE SECRETARY'S ENERGY PROPOSALS THAT HE MADE IN CHICAGO -- ENERGY AND FISCAL PROPOSALS? HAVE YOU GOT A READING ON THAT? DO YOU FEEL HEARTENED, OR DISCOURAGED, OR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN?

A. LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU SOMETHING ON THAT.

Q. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HAVE A RUNDOWN, YOU KNOW.

A. ON THE REACTIONS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED? O.K.

Q. I'M GOING TO ASK JUST A SMALL, TECHNICAL POINT:
REPORTERS ON THE PLANE COMING BACK LAST NIGHT WERE TOLD
THAT TWO RATHER IMPORTANT REFERENCES IN THE COMMUNIQUE,
TO PREVIOUS UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND TO ISRAEL'S
RIGHT TO EXIST -- WERE INADVERTENTLY LEFT OUT OF THE
COMMUNIQUE. ARE YOU CERTAIN, NOW, THAT THE SOVIET DRAFT
OF THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS THE -- THOSE TWO REFERENCES?

A. I BELIEVE SO, BUT LET ME DOUBLE CHECK IT.

Q. WHEN IS THE SECRETARY COMING BACK?

A. OVER THE WEEKEND. I WILL TRY AND GET YOU A PRECISE
TIME. I GET VERY CONFUSED WITH THE TIME CHANGES. I
BELIEVE IT'S SATURDAY, BUT I'M NOT SURE.

Q. IS HE COMING BACK DIRECTLY FROM PEKING, OR --

A. HE MIGHT BE HAVING A STOPOVER ON THE WAY BACK. HARD
TO BE SPECIFIC.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHERE?

A. WELL, LET ME CHECK ON THAT POINT.
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Q. DO YOU MEAN A REFUELLING AND REST STOP OVER, OR DO
YOU MEAN ANKARA?

A. OH, NO, NO, NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT.

Q. YOU MEAN HE'S GOING TO STOP IN TOKYO AND TELL THEM
ALL ABOUT THINGS?

A. THAT'S WHAT I THINK IS THE CASE, BUT I JUST WANTED TO
CHECK IT.

Q. DOES THE ANKARA THING LOOK LESS LIKELY TODAY?

A. WELL I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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